

Le IR, c'est mort.

Dorothea Salo  
Repository Fringe  
31 July 2008

Le IR, c'est mort.  
*Vive le IR!*

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We thought...

**IF YOU BUILD IT...**  
**...they will come!**

# We thought...

**“Resources? Staff?  
It’ll mostly run itself.”**

**“Everybody wants  
open access!”**

**“All we’ll take is the  
peer-reviewed research  
literature.”**

**“We did all the  
planning. So everything will  
be just fine.”**

# We thought...

**"Customization?  
It works out of the  
box!"**

**"Resources? Staff?  
It'll mostly run itself."**

**"Oh, come on,  
they can just hack it  
to do that!"**

**"Everybody wants  
open access!"**

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peer-reviewed research  
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**"We did all the  
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be just fine."**

# We thought...

**"Customization?  
It works out of the  
box!"**

**"Dublin Core is  
plenty good enough."**

**"Resources? Staff?  
It'll mostly run itself."**

**"Oh, come on,  
they can just hack it  
to do that!"**

**"Everybody wants  
open access!"**

**"All we'll take is the  
peer-reviewed research  
literature."**

**"We did all the  
planning. So everything will  
be just fine."**

**"Document versioning?  
But all we want is the final  
version, right?"**

# We thought...

“Resources? Staff?  
It'll mostly run itself.”

“Customization?  
It works out of the  
box!”

“Dublin Core is

“Oh, come on,  
can just hack it  
that!”

**“Sure, they'll type  
keystrokes!”**

“Even  
open.

“We did all the  
planning. So everything will  
be just fine.”

“Document versioning?  
But all we want is the final  
version, right?”



And so we built it.

They didn't come.





# My job timeline

**June 2007:**

Repository budget  
slashed by one-third.

**March 2007:**

I start.

**October 2007:**

I am asked to chair WG  
on repository future.

**Part of WG charge:**

“Figure out how we’ll  
fund you.”

# Hey, wait up!

**“How do I cite this?”**

**“What is the authoritative version of record?”**

**“Will someone plagiarize me?”**

**“Will my publisher be upset?”**

**“Will someone violate my copyright or steal my idea?”**

**“Will I be sued for violating copyright?”**

**“Is my institution trying to be Big Brother?”**

**“Will I get credit toward tenure and promotion?”**

**“What do I put here?”**



# Hey, wait up!

"How do I cite this?"

"What is the authoritative version of record?"

"Will someone plagiarize me?"

"Will I be publishing?"

**"I don't understand."**

"Will I be plagiarizing?"

"Is my institution trying to be Big Brother?"

"Does this count as credit toward tenure and promotion?"

"What do I put here?"

# The other downer

The **top two words** I utter about the **software platform** the repository is based on:



**“I’m sorry.”**

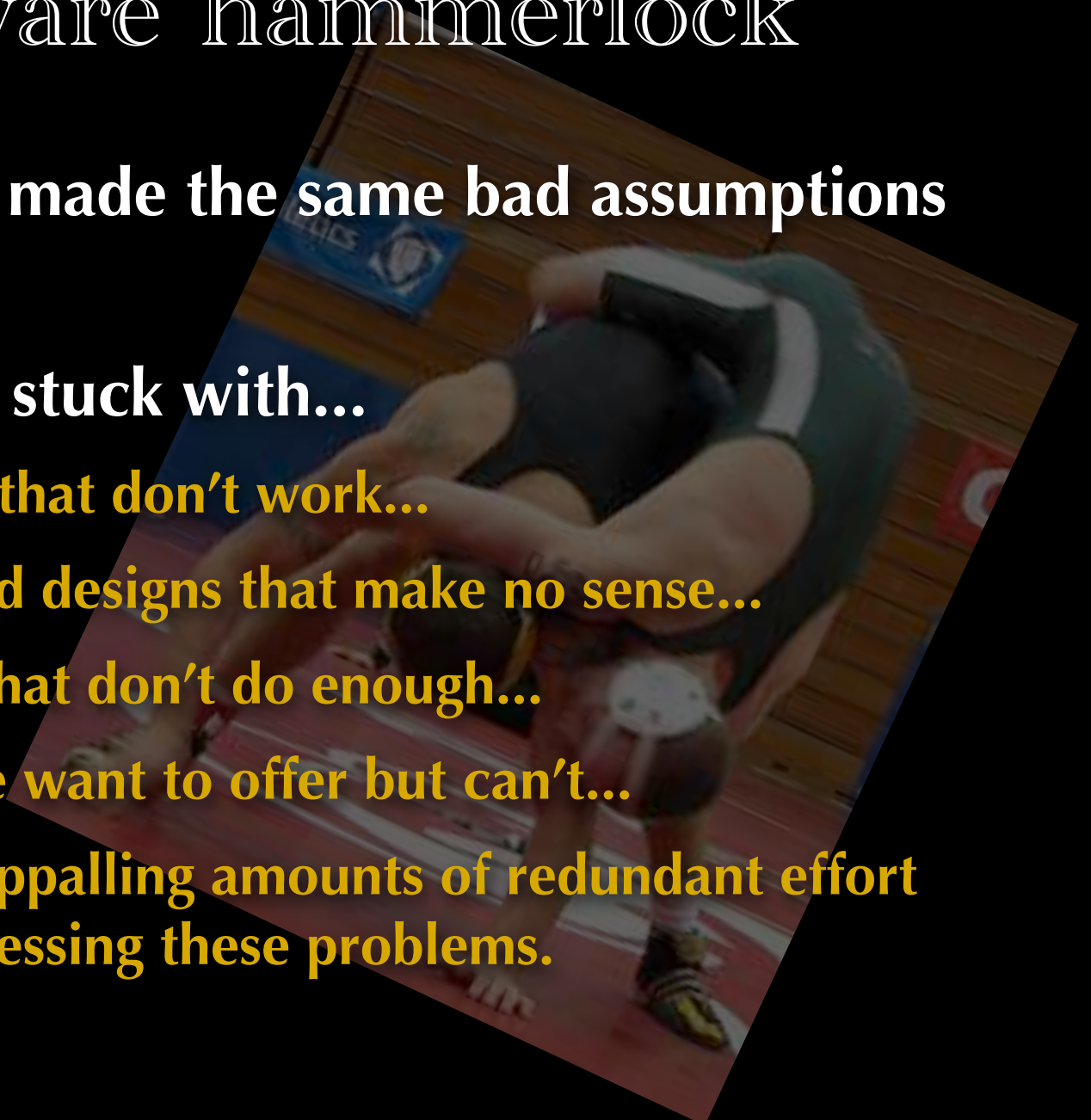
Death throes

*The shape of opportunity?*



# Software hammerlock

- ❖ Our software made the same bad assumptions we did!
- ❖ So now we're stuck with...
  - ❖ ... workflows that don't work...
  - ❖ ... defaults and designs that make no sense...
  - ❖ ... protocols that don't do enough...
  - ❖ ... services we want to offer but can't...
  - ❖ ... stunning, appalling amounts of redundant effort aimed at redressing these problems.





# Hey, get with the program!

- ✿ **We are on the Web, but not of it.**
- ✿ **We are not mashuppable. Not even with other library services!**
- ✿ **We are ugly and unusable.**
- ✿ **We're not 2.0. We're not even 1.0b.**
- ✿ **We are missing opportunity because of this! How much more can we afford?**

# What are we, anyway?

**Researcher**

**ETD coordinator**

**Systems  
administrator**

**Systems analyst**

**Research programmer**

**Liaison librarian**

**Repository librarian**

**Scholarly communication  
coordinator**

**Metadata librarian**

**Grant administrator**

**Data curator**

# What are we, anyway?

Researcher

ETD coordinator

Systems  
administrator

Systems

**How do we work  
together?**

librarian

Repe

cation

inator

Metadata librarian

Grant administrator

Data curator

Let's take a step back.

*Then two steps beyond!*



# Beyond “green OA”

- ✦ Self-archiving will not save us.
- ✦ Peer-reviewed research is not all we care about.
  - ✦ Useful research products happen long before publication! Who will care for them?
- ✦ Open access as byproduct, not end-product
  - ✦ If we're part of the process, we have better claim to the results.

# Beyond silos

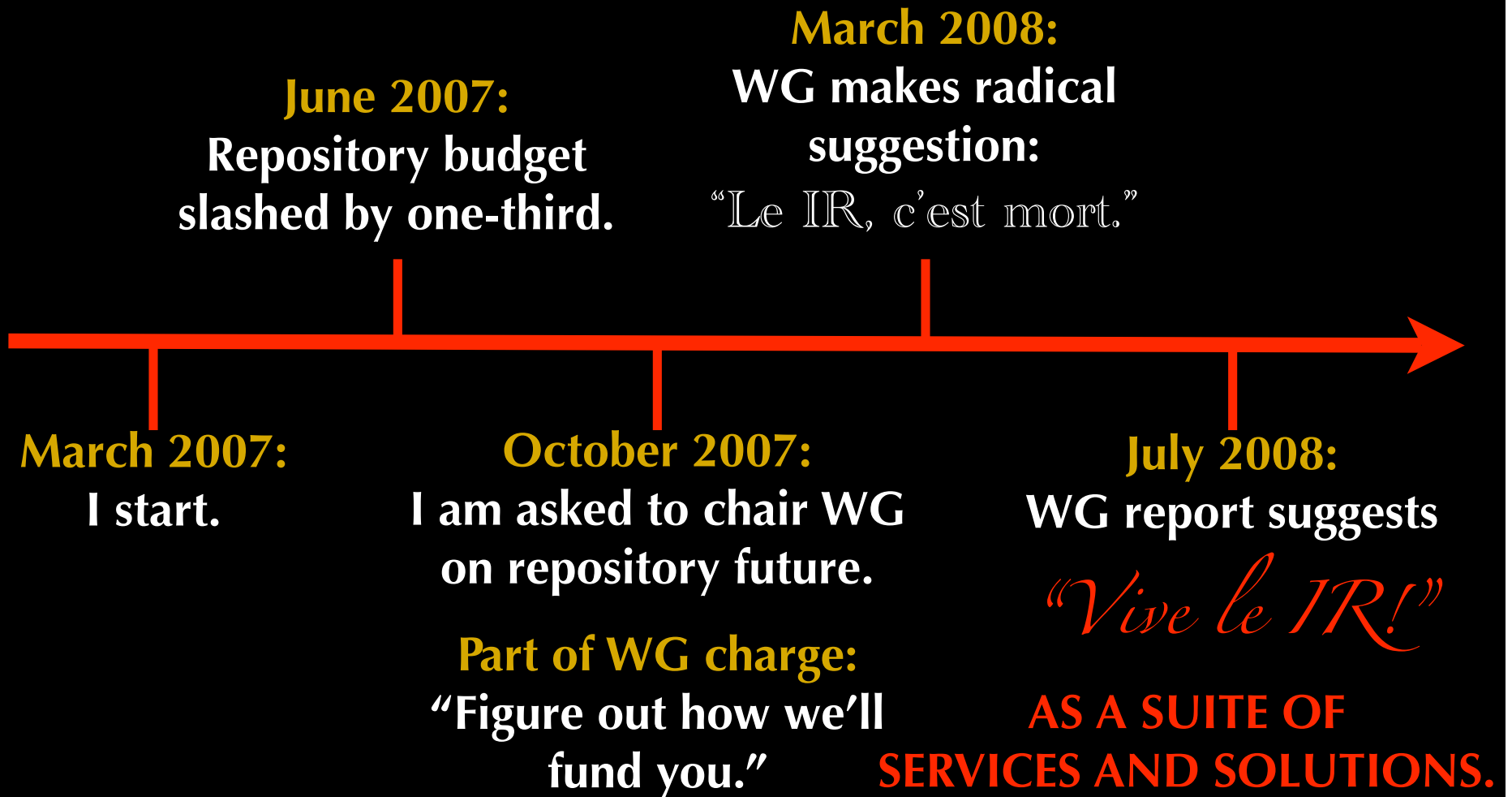
- ❖ All of this is about more than **where the stuff resides!** That's the least of our worries.
- ❖ We have to **get** stuff, **give** stuff, **mash up** stuff, **expose** stuff, **manage** stuff, **help** with stuff. No matter **where it lives!**
- ❖ The self-archiving paradigm didn't have a **management** component, much less offer any cogent **help**.

# Beyond eternal demos



- ✿ **I'm tired of watching good code fly by!**
- ✿ **How do we share innovations more widely? How do we mainstream them?**
- ✿ **Not just about code!**

# My job timeline



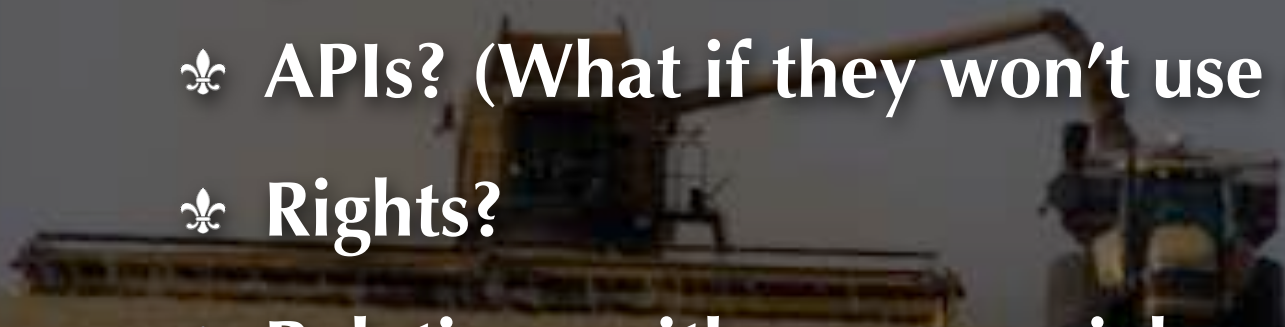
Variations on a theme in





# Harvesting

- ✦ The content is out there. We just have to get our hands on it.
- ✦ APIs? (What if they won't use ours?)
- ✦ Rights?
- ✦ Relations with commercial services?  
With disciplinary repositories?
- ✦ Compiled statistics for duplicate deposits? (We know they want 'em!)



# Healing

## ✿ Contused metadata

- ✿ If we're swapping metadata and whole items, why aren't we correcting each other?

## ✿ Dislocated silos

- ✿ Paper plus data
- ✿ Your institution, my institution, their discipline
- ✿ IR, digital library, research storage...
- ✿ Again: are we of the Web, or just on it?

## ✿ Bruised egos

- ✿ We haven't covered ourselves with glory here. It's time to mend some fences.

# Helping

- ✦ Idealism isn't enough. We have to make ourselves useful.
  - ✦ ... to our administrations
  - ✦ ... to our faculty
- ✦ How?
  - ✦ Early intervention?
  - ✦ Add-on services?
  - ✦ Or maybe we just don't know yet—so let's turn people loose to help others!





# Hope

- ✿ Funders are on the move.
- ✿ Faculty have trailblazers to consider.
- ✿ Librarians are taking note of process, not product.
- ✿ Programmers are moving toward flexibility.
- ✿ We are all rethinking our initial assumptions.

Starting to fit in

finally!



# Imperial College, London

“The principal objective during the creation of this archive was to ensure adoption by **embedding the repository so deeply in the institution's working practices**, that barriers to adoption were significantly lowered, if not removed.”

—Fereshteh Afshari and Richard Jones



# ePrints: Usability Counts!

**“We... apply a Spock approach—the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few. So end-users are most important, followed by depositors, followed by editors, followed by librarians, etc.”**

**“EPrints 3.1 is a little different... to make administering it easier. We've introduced web-based configuration editing, many more configuration files... reload if changed (saving restarts), and... an issue discovery system (duplicate titles etc).”**

**—Christopher Gutteridge**



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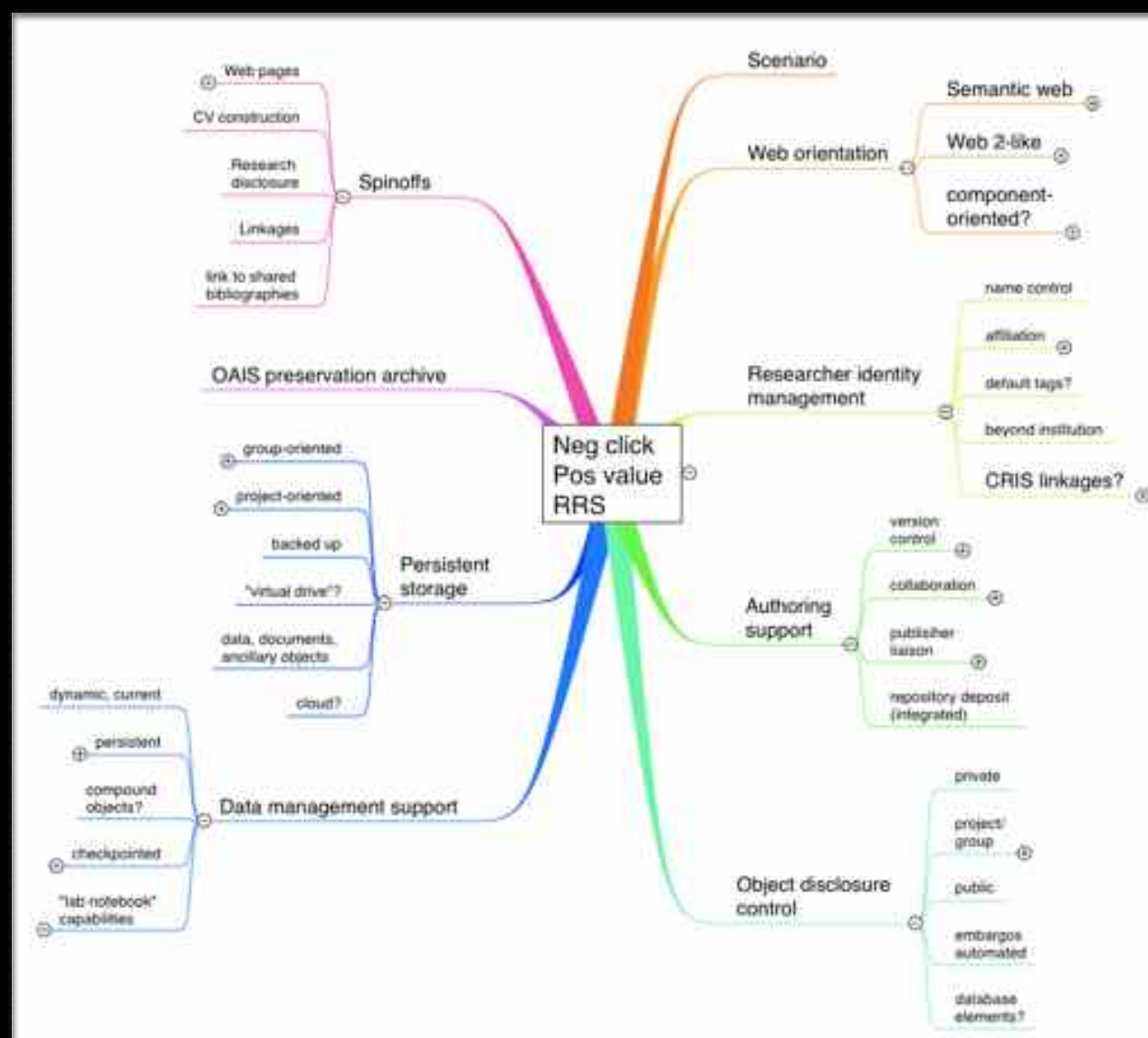
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*ePrints:*

*Sucks less than Hotmail!*  
— Les Carr

# Chris Rusbridge: -ve clicks, +ve value!



# Andy Powell: Communicating

But not just about functionality...



- the institutional approach has fundamental mismatch with the real-life social networks adopted by researchers
  - subject-based
  - cross-institutional
  - global
- while institutional approach is good from perspective of institutional management, preservation, etc.
- globally “concentrated” repositories might better reflect the social networks that need to arise



File: "Project Status" Research in Data Management

June 2008 18

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June 2008 18

reflect the social networks that need to arise

- globally “concentrated” repositories might better management, preservation, etc.
- good from perspective of institutional

#3: Our focus is on sharing metadata...



- ...even though we have full-text to share
- worse... the full-text we share tends to be PDF rather than native Web format
  - the Web equivalent of a cul de sac
- and the metadata we share tends to be “simple Dublin Core”
  - little consistency in approaches to describing ‘files’ vs. ‘documents’
  - little consistency in naming authors and subjects
  - ultimately, it is both too simple and too complex!

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**Andy Powell, “Web 2.0 and repositories: have we got our repository architecture right?”**

# Paul Walk: Fitting in with the Web

## principles

- move necessary activity closer to the point of incentive
- the institutional repository's role:
  - asset management & preservation
  - participation in workflow
  - it should disappear from view in the discovery context
  - providing (simple) access to resources
- pass by reference, not by copy (*Technorati* trumps *Slideshare*)
  - cool URIs (HTTP URIs)
  - resource oriented architecture (REST)
  - ORE
- move complexity on the public side of the repository up the stack toward the point of specialisation
  - simple APIs (see above)
  - the personal research environment ought to be considerably more complex than the source repository
- expect & accept increasing complexity on the local/institutional side of the repository with more sophisticated workflow integration
- caveat: a lesson from SOA is that reusability is **overrated** as a virtue



4

**“I wonder if the user-centric/institutional/global debate around repositories is just symptomatic of a tension about to become apparent all over the (institutional) Web?”**

**Paul Walk,  
“Repository Architecture #83”**

**—Paul Walk**



# SPARC, DRIVER and JISC

**“... joint  
commitment to promote  
a European network of  
repositories... across  
institutional and national  
boundaries....”**

**“... a common  
lobby at a national and  
international level to  
leverage change...”**

# SPARC, DRIVER and JISC

**SWORD**

**SWAP**

**ePrints**

**SHERPA/RoMEO**

**SPECTRa**

**RepoMMan**

**CLADDIER**

**"... joint  
commitment to promote  
a European network of  
repositories... across  
institutional and national  
boundaries..."**

**Common Repositories  
Interface Group**

**"... a common  
lobby at a national and  
international level to  
leverage change..."**

**OpenDOAR**

**EThOS**

**Repository  
Fringe 2008**

We can do this.!

*Allons-nous!*

✿ *Have sense!*

✿ *Have fun!*

✿ *Have at it!*

# Credits

- ✿ <http://flickr.com/photos/laffy4k> (We thought...)
- ✿ <http://flickr.com/photos/oneservant2go> (We built it)
- ✿ <http://flickr.com/photos/emdot> (Software hammerlock)
- ✿ <http://flickr.com/photos/philon> (Hey, wait up!)
- ✿ <http://flickr.com/photos/moriza> (Hey, get with the program!)
- ✿ <http://flickr.com/photos/peasap> (Beyond eternal demos)
- ✿ <http://flickr.com/photos/annia316> (Beyond green OA)
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- ✿ <http://flickr.com/photos/cyron> (Harvesting)
- ✿ <http://flickr.com/photos/gaetanlee> (Helping)
- ✿ <http://flickr.com/photos/erkcharlton> (Healing)
- ✿ <http://flickr.com/photos/wetsun> (Hope)
- ✿ <http://flickr.com/photos/archie4oz> (Imperial College, London)
- ✿ <http://flickr.com/photos/kevincollins> (ePrints)

The Flickr logo, featuring the word "flickr" in a blue and pink sans-serif font, with "GAMMA" in small red letters above the "r".

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**sort** and **share** your photos.

flickr  
storm.

The Creative Commons logo, consisting of a green rounded rectangle containing the "CC" icon and the words "creative commons" in white.

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